

PROJECT AND NAME CONCEPT

The project **Citizen CAN** is based on the promotion and experience of active citizenship, the main field of work of AMC. Active citizenship is the attitude through which each individual can participate to the maximum of their intent in the democratic processes of their communities.



The project was approved by the Portuguese National Agency and is coordinated by AMC. AMC will send eight young people during 2018 for an EVS experience and will host eight international young people in our office and the youth centres we coordinate. Thirteen other partners are involved in the project, either as hosting organisation or as sending organisations. Their countries are: Azerbaijan, Finland, Georgia, Greece, Italy, Jordan, Kosovo, Malta, Poland, Portugal, Serbia, Sweden and Ukraine. The young people involved in these projects will experience different possibilities of engagement in the civil society, developing skills and facing many learning opportunities, becoming (even more) active citizens.

The **aims** of Citizen CAN are:

- to promote volunteering as a tool of civic participation and a mechanism that allows young people to acquire personal, social and professional skills;
- to bring non formal education closer to the structures of formal education, fostering the sharing of good practices, and values/attitudes of citizenship and empowerment;
- to foster the participation of young people in the democratic life, mainly in the protection of human rights.

GAIA Kosovo

DESCRIPTION OF THE ORGANISATION

GAIA is peace organization from Kosovo, which stands up for solidarity between people across ethnic boundaries and minorities rights. Since 2010 GAIA organize workcamps, youth exchanges, public events mostly related to rights of minority, environmental justice, youth empowerment, trough ARTivism, music and video making, volunteering, non-formal educations etc. Volunteering program is the core activity of GAIA as well as spreading the idea of volunteerism and activism for peace and environment on Kosovo and further.

GAIA is branch of Service Civil International (SCI), one of the oldest volunteering organization dedicated to promoting a culture of peace by organizing international voluntary projects for people of all ages and backgrounds. So far, GAIA has been working mostly in smaller ethnically diverse communities and our work has been mostly focused on issues and topics which are being neglected or simply forgotten.

More information about projects and actions of GAIA can be found at our Facebook page: <https://web.facebook.com/imaginatoriumgracanica/>
or Wordpress: www.gaiakosovo.wordpress.com
and about SCI at www.sciint.org

VOLUNTEERS' TASKS & ACTIVITIES

ABOUT MITROVICA PROGRAMME

The main objective of the project in Mitrovica is to bring together people from parts of the city that are not interacting anymore. The city is still today divided between a Serbian north and an Albanian south. If no physical barrier stops people from crossing the river between them, an extreme social exclusion refrain a majority of people to go meet their own neighbours in the other side of the city. The volunteers of GAIA in Mitrovica will try to find ways to foster communication and interactions between two communities that used to live together. The project will also seek to include other minorities of the city (Roma, Ashkali, Bosniaks, Turks, etc.). Bringing the different communities together is part of a peacebuilding agenda for a region tense due to its divisions. Additionally, volunteers will try to find ways to foster the cultural life of the city to create connexions between people, create opportunities for the youth, and make them believe in the richness of their own city. The volunteers are then also asked, for now, to draw the main orientations of the project, to find ideas, to make connections with the local actors, and to discover what the city has to offer.

The team in Mitrovica very recently applied to the EU sub-grant called "Divided Past, Joint Future", with a project aiming at organizing events revolving around storytelling, with a mixed audience from the city. Through various topics, the youth and older generations of the city, North and South, could come and share experiences and find common grounds. The project also intends to organize dance shows with an interethnic team of performers. An activity linked to gardening and permaculture will also attempt to bring together people from North and South. The whole project revolves around creating a common ground and a common understanding between the communities inhabiting the city.

SKILLS AND COMPETENCES

We are looking for volunteers with creativity, new ideas, lots of energy, and patience. Volunteers should be flexible and open minded, tolerant to with people with fewer opportunities with different backgrounds and affected by different problems.

We welcome skills and talents that can improve existing program quality or create new ones.

The volunteer should be also interested in peace building, youth work, human rights and environmental issues. Also, it would be great that the volunteer is empowered with strong self-initiative and self-motivation, responsible, open and direct in communication, without judgments, and sensitive for any kind of discrimination. It would be useful to know or posses some interesting, practical or artistic skills or knowledge that might be implemented in the center.

Willingness to learn languages of the community would also be appreciated . The volunteer should be willing to learn Serbian and/or Albanian and/or Romani languages, flexible in terms of working place and dynamic, flexible to living conditions due to electricity and water cuts willing to learn, adapt and share.

The volunteer should be ready to face different cultural and social challenges, as well as occasionally demanding working and living environment due to intensive contacts with kids and challenging situations. In addition to that, living in an isolated community, will provide an opportunity for a new perception and inspiration.

Experience in other organizations, collectives and/or youth work is beneficial, but not required. Also, skills for documenting (photography, video, interviewing, reporting and story writing) are also beneficial. However, at least basic knowledge about the political, religious and social situation in Kosovo is helpful.

